

Student Advisory Council - Thursday, January 20, 2022

Suzanne welcomed those in attendance, and advised of regrets (Donald, Jeff, Todd and Sonya).

Highlights of December

- Beautiful virtual Xmas concert that was compiled into a video by Taylor Billard
- Grade 7s performed a play onstage indoors that was also recorded and sent out to their families (path was closed due to weather)
- Turkey Dinner was fantastic with help from community volunteers
- Gingerbread Cookie Decorating for students on last day before the break, with help from community volunteer

Online Learning

- Janine gave an update on third time going online, saying that teachers were more prepared than the first time around with regard to technology, etc.
- Was a big help that google classroom was ready to roll
- Great participation from the kids. They were online, engaged and excited to see each other
- All students had access, which was fantastic
- Delores gave update from teaching assistant perspective and agreed that it wasn't as stressful as the first time - it went really well
- Students in learning centres were attending classes and had a great time

CBRM Micro Grant – Bernadette Romeo and Suzanne applied for adult-sized snow shoes to be able to host family activities with the ability to provide enough shoes for all parents - in support of active, healthy, outdoor, community living. We should hear back in 2-3 weeks.

Return to School Plan – Update by Suzanne

Absenteeism is at about 30%, which is comparable to other schools in our board. Riverside's rate is usually between 4-8%, so it's a big jump.

No contact tracing in schools, but we continue to encourage families to communicate potential exposures to the school, as well as follow provincial guidelines.

Things are going well on the teaching side, and we are doing the best we can from a health and safety perspective. It's the new normal for kids to wash and sanitize – they are singing it in the hallways 😊

Each morning, kids are offered new masks as they come in from recess and lunch – lots of disposable 3-ply masks available, as well as 24 rapid test kits have been sent out to our families with kids with symptoms that needed a test.

Tomorrow or Monday more tests are to arrive for all staff and students, including pre-primaries this time.

Questions / Round Table

Gerry – Inquired if Riverside's ventilation system was updated. Suzanne advised that we weren't part of the schools included, as our systems are up to date.

Rebecca – Appreciated the instructions given to children regarding expected behaviors for online learning, as it made the sessions much more engaging. Suzanne added that they even saw a difference with the middle schoolers, as they were told to keep their cameras on the whole time.

Leslie – Commented that the use of applied backgrounds during the virtual sessions is a good option for those who don't want to show their background.

Funds available in SAC pot – total of \$5234.00. \$5000 plus a dollar for every student. Hasn't been spent because we haven't had need just yet. If anyone has any project ideas, please pass them along. Health Promoting Schools is supporting an outdoor library installation by Pathways to Employment.

Leslie – Wondered if we could use any money for materials needed for online learning if we go back to that scenario. Janine advised that we have everything we need.

Suzanne

- There was one family without access due to remote location, so a booster was provided to give that student access.
- Breakfast program is back up and running, as is the lunch program (Flavor, Greco, Missy's – nice to support local when we can).
- Discussed a pilot project by the board – math teachers given professional development on curriculum delivery with iPads.
- Mentioned that volunteering is being limited during the height of omicron, and we will reassess in a couple of weeks' time. Our priority is to keep everyone self.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting date: February 17th, 2022